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AUTHOR	Steffens, Charlie; Gorin, Spencer
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ABSTRACT

This book demonstrates that therapeutic play can provide a solution to contemporary socialization problems. It provides a selection of games and activities that teach children about living in the world through the dynamics of play. Section 1, "Introduction," defines "play" and the philosophy and rules behind a healthy play program. Section 2, "Creative Play," focuses on finding ways to make established games more interesting to children (e.g., by picking multiple "its" or varying scoring ability among players to make standard games less competitive and more cooperative). It also provides tested games that can help children learn that people are the most important part of any game. Section 3, "Compassionate Play," includes various activities to help children develop trust in others and themselves. The games help children understand the importance of trust in accomplishing goals and having a sense of community. Many of the games are founded on logic and help children change their perceptions. Section 4, "Soft Aggression," introduces soft aggressive play after children have established that they can play together in a healthy fashion. The activities help transition children into more active games and allow them to find better solutions to conflict and other problems that can occur with more action and intensity. The book also presents learning-to-play tips for the classroom, discusses the role of play in education, and describes learning to play at home. (Contains 16 references.) (SM)

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